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AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Czeslaw WIECKOWSKI (Poland)

Addendum

Programme for further implementation of Agenda 21

A. Statement of commitment

(i) At the nineteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, we - Heads of States and Governments and other Heads of Delegations, together with our partners from international institutions and non-governmental organizations, have gathered to review progress achieved over the five years that have passed since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to re-energize our commitment to further action on goals and objectives set out by the Rio Earth Summit.

(ii) The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was a landmark event. At that Conference, we launched a new global partnership for sustainable development - a partnership which respects the indivisibility of environmental protection and the development process. It is founded on a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level. Agenda 21, adopted at Rio, addresses the pressing environment and development problems of today and also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century to attain the long-term goals of sustainable development.

(iii) Our focus at this special session has been to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 in a comprehensive manner and not to renegotiate its

provisions or to be selective in its implementation. We reaffirm that Agenda 21 remains the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development. We reaffirm all the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Forest Principles. We are convinced that the achievement of sustainable development requires the integration of its economic, environmental and social components. We recommit to work together - in the spirit of global partnership - to reinforce our joint efforts to meet equitably the needs of present and future generations.

(iv) We acknowledge that a number of positive results have been achieved, but we are deeply concerned that the overall trends for sustainable development are worse today than they were in 1992. We emphasize that the implementation of Agenda 21 in a comprehensive manner remains vitally important and is more urgent now than ever.

(v) Time is of the essence to meet the challenges of sustainable development as set out in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. To this end, we recommit ourselves to the global partnership established at UNCED and to the continuous dialogue and action inspired by the need to achieve a more efficient and equitable world economy, as a means to provide a supportive international climate for achieving environment and development goals. We, therefore, pledge to continue to work together in good faith and in the spirit of partnership, to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21. We invite everyone throughout the world to join us in our common cause.

(vi) We commit ourselves to ensure that the next comprehensive review of Agenda 21 in the year 2002 demonstrates greater measurable progress in achieving sustainable development. This programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 is our vehicle to achieve that. We commit ourselves to fully implement this programme.